

Bright

HORROR!



Noth



IZONS

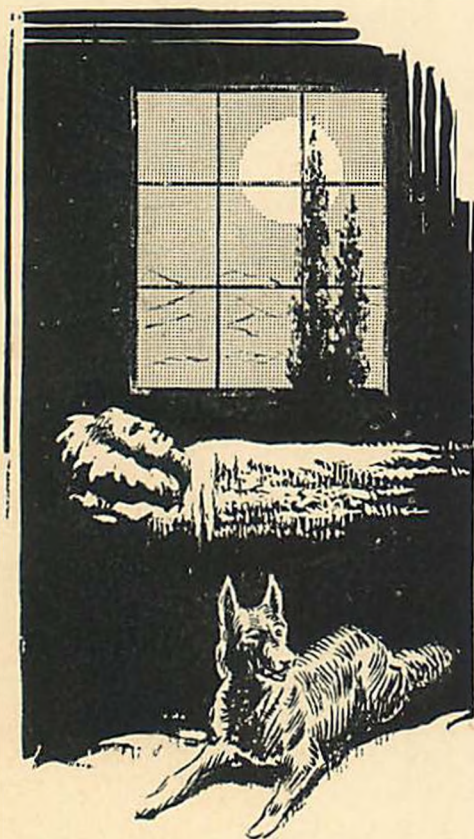
for JANUARY, 1955



ing but Soulcraft

What All Grown-Ups Don't Know:

*People Don't Necessarily Die When
Their Souls Go Out of Their Bodies*



OUT in a quaint little house on a California mountaintop, back in 1929, a man thought he'd died when he went out of his body for about four hours. But he didn't die. He came back into his body remembering what life was like in the condition that people reach when they've left their physical selves in what the world calls Death. He lived to write up the experience for *The American Magazine*—

Seven Minutes in Eternity

Out of that one night's experience the man wrote something like 20 books on what happens to us when we die, that people are now reading all over the world. The contents of those books are now called—

SOULCRAFT

Ask your father or mother to send \$1 to this same man's publishing house and read the book that comes back, telling all about it. You'll never be afraid of getting killed when you know the truth of what happens to you when you die . .

The Story of a Night in a Lonely Bungalow With a Police Dog

It is making religious history throughout the world, that experience. Because it was followed by others. If you wish your whole spiritual philosophy made over, with facts about the After-life that you can sink your teeth in, send \$1 to the address below for a copy of this book of 78 pages, bound in Burgundy leatherette covers—

SOULCRAFT CHAPELS : Noblesville, Indiana

Bernice Sell



A New Year is Like a New Baby

ANYTHING may be written on the blank tablet of its life. In the matter of spiritual nourishment for either twelvemonth or infant, there is food for the soul as well as food for the body. Everything depends on source of enlightenment.

This Great Study Known as Soulcraft

comes from energetic and purposeful exploration into the profoundest phases of sacred Psychical Research. By adept development of Extra-Sensory Perception, communication is obviously established with great intellects in higher dimensions of Time and Space who forthwith describe what their experiences and findings have been Beyond the Veil of physical death. Then in evidential proof that little of it is auto-suggestion, these same surpassing intellects effect materialization on the mortal plane and confirm what they have transmitted earlier, correcting misinterpretations and adding missing data. No other sacred instruction either in America or the world makes such attempts to establish the validity of its offerings to the confused mortal spirit. This magazine, "Bright Horizons", attempts to offer reading material to 'teen-agers or those who have never known that such proofs are possible . .

Don't Miss an Issue of the Twelve Numbers Ahead

"You Can Read just One Book and Become an Educated Person"



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"BEHOLD LIFE!"

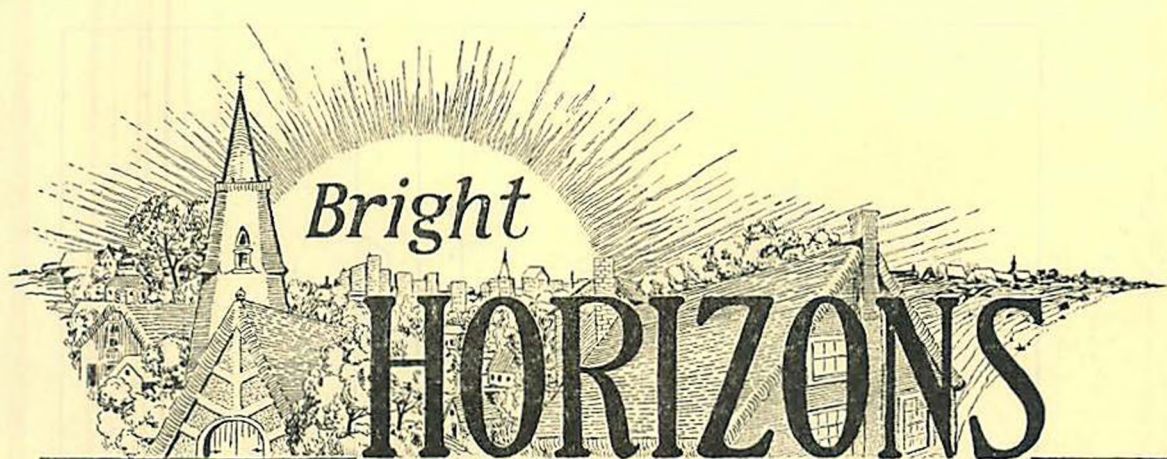
gives you a complete picture of why and how the universe is organized as it is. It was written as a great background volume for the many Soulcraft books that have followed, each taking up some special department of wisdom from BEHOLD LIFE and elaborating upon it. Especially is Religion expounded in the later chapters of this book, so that you KNOW why you have ample cause for believing in a Divine Creator . .

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VOLUME THREE

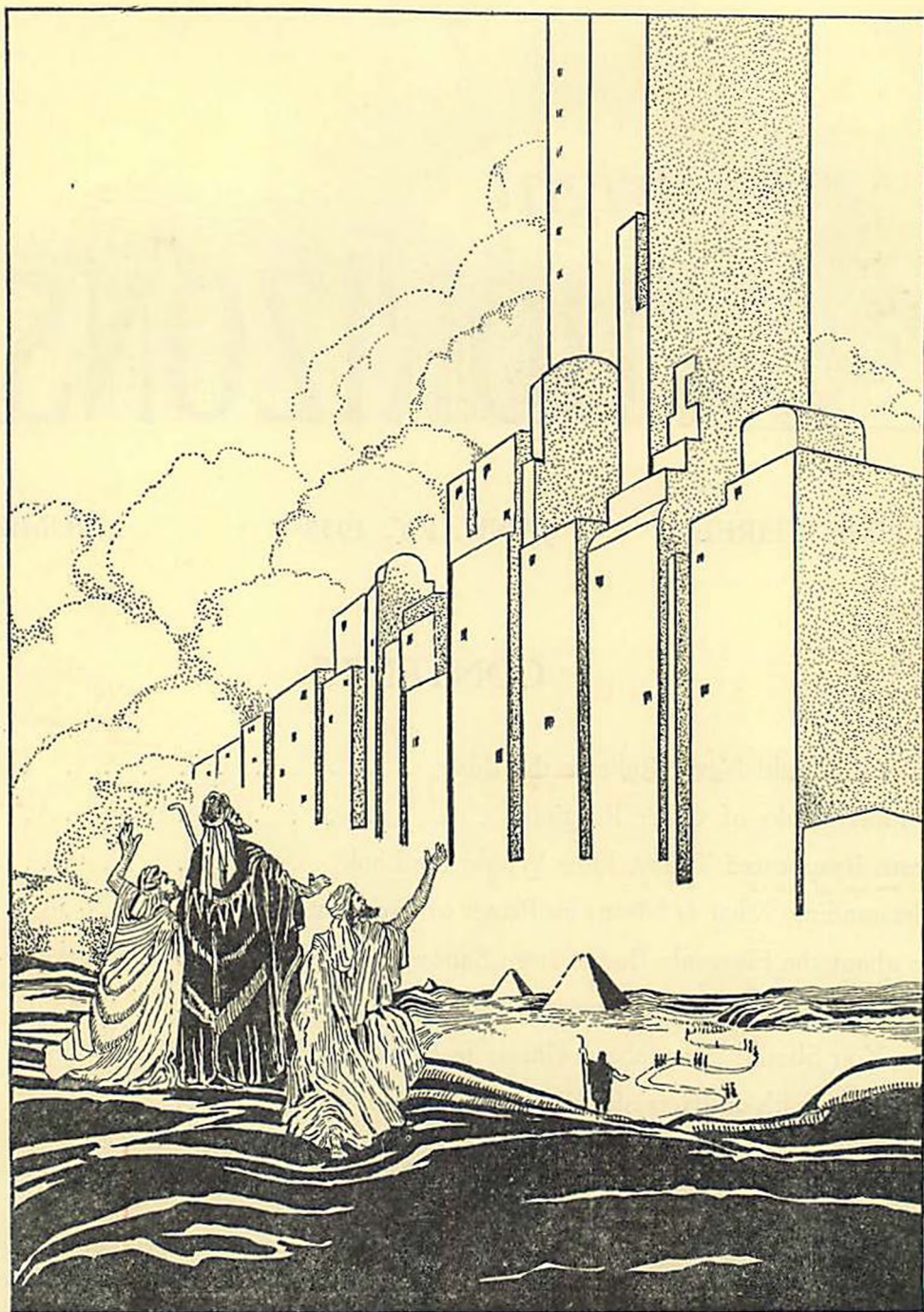
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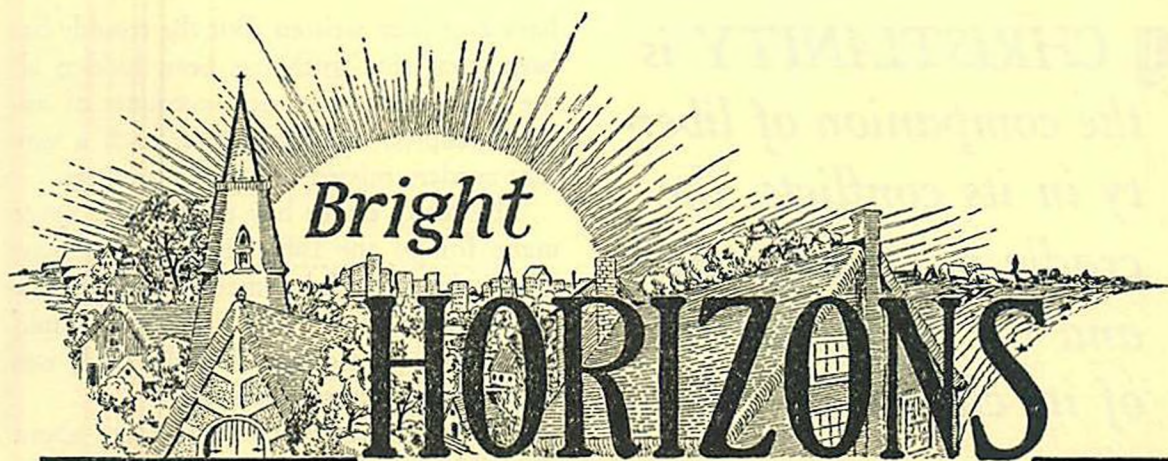
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"--in My Father's House are many Mansions"

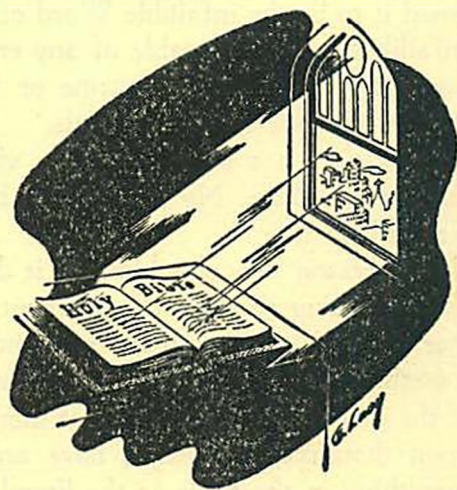


VOLUME THREE

JANUARY, 1955

NUMBER SIX

WHY We Should Never Ridicule the Bible . .



THE BOYS and girls of today, as they are growing up, hear lots of ignorant or half-educated older folk scoff at the Bible as religious hocus-pocus. One of the chief reasons that Christians don't like the Russian Communists is because they make a business of

doing it. Considering what the modern scientists are discovering about the universe, the same unlearned adults declare the Holy Book hasn't a leg to stand on, in the light of scientific or astronomical truth. It has simply been around a long, long time, they say, written in days when men didn't know

¶ CHRISTIANITY is
*the companion of liber-
ty in its conflicts, the
cradle of its infancy,
and the divine source
of its claims . .*

any better, and venerated—as we describe it—because of the great numbers of people up across the generations who got comfort and solace from it because they supposed it to be the infallible Word of God. Infallible means incapable of any error in describing or defining doctrine or touching on religious faith or morals.

Now that is a badly mistaken view to take of the Bible. No truly clever boy or girl will do it.

The reason they shouldn't do it doesn't have anything to do with sentiment. Neither does it concern mere reverence for something that has withstood the fortunes of the years. The mere fact that thousands upon thousands of people have accepted everything in the Bible as the literal truth is no particular reason for going on believing everything in it if we know it to be scientifically incorrect.

The real reason why it is well not to discount the Bible as a sacred work is because it is among those volumes up across the generations that have come the nearest to presenting Truth of all other books that

have ever been written. But the trouble has been, that this truth has been hidden all the while under historical accounts of ancient peoples, or disguised in such a way that readers missed the true meanings.

The really clever boy or girl will never make fun of the Bible itself—or at least he or she shouldn't—merely because the grown-ups of past years have been stupid and didn't quite grasp what the Bible was trying to get across to them.

When you know the real facts about the Bible, you have a lot more respect for it . .

AS a matter of fact, even a lot of otherwise clever grown people don't know where the Bible came from, or how it was first composed. It might be better if they did.

As most of today's boys and girls know, the Bible is divided into the Old and the New Testaments. The Old Testament purports to relate how God created the world, and the sun, moon, and stars, and the first man and his wife, after which it jumps right into a history of the Israelites, calling them God's Chosen People, and how they were delivered by Moses from slavery to the Egyptians. Moses led them through the Wilderness and up into Palestine, fighting every step of the way, himself on a lonely mountaintop in Moab. The Israelites finally got to Jerusalem and set up a kingdom and built a great temple, all of which laid the historical background for the coming of Christ Jesus the first Christmas night.

The New Testament contains Four Gospels and each tells its own version of the

Truth
hidden
in
Bible

life and times of Jesus, and how He was crucified, and arose from the dead. It runs along with a history of what the Apostles did after He ascended into heaven, ending in a long library of manuscripts called Epistles which are mostly the writings of St. Paul to the early churches, expounding what Jesus had sought to teach humanity before His crucifixion by the Romans.

The Book as a history is so full of errors concerning historical and scientific findings as to be beyond belief. And we can pass over the tale of God dictating it to Moses or anybody else. Nevertheless, as a book it is priceless.

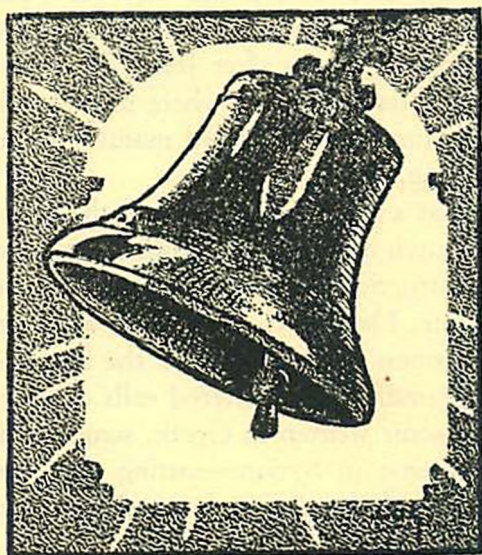
It is priceless because all the way up through the Old Testament, and throughout the New Testament, it uses historical accounts of ancient happenings to emphasize great moral truths and spiritual secrets that never could have been presented and preserved in any other form. As a matter of fact, no other book on earth has ever begun to come anywhere near it in achieving such a mission.

It is these great moral truths and spiritual secrets that we can admire and revere, letting the literalities—or unquestionable facts—speak for themselves. If they're wrong, they're wrong—and that's all there is to it—and if they're right they're right.

But there's never been anything wrong with those moral truths or spiritual secrets. Never forget that for a moment.

WHAT even the minister in the church doesn't feel any too free to discuss, is the way the Bible came to be compiled. For it *was* compiled, not written from page one to page eight hundred and thirty-

six all by one person, as a modern novelist might sit himself down and do a book like *Gone With the Wind*. As a matter of accuracy, nobody knows how *many* different writers contributed their literary efforts to authoring the books of the Bible, either Old or New Testaments.



The ancient Hebrews, we know to be true, had more or less historical church accounts of the beginnings of the Israelite troubles in Egypt when they were held as bondmen—today we call them slaves—under the Egyptian kings. Those manuscripts were in the hands of the Hebrew church authorities. Most of them were in the Temple at Jerusalem. But they weren't there as books, because you must remember that printing hadn't then been invented. They were there in scrolls of sheepskin, hand-lettered, every one. Some of them were two thousand years old, because sheepskin will last that long when stored in a safe dry place. No particular authors'

Scrolls
2000
yrs.
old

Bible 400 yrs.
after
Jesus
death

Epistle

names were signed to them. They had just grown as a collection.

Most of the manuscripts containing the accounts of Jesus' life, and the Acts of the Apostles, and the various Epistles of St. Paul—an epistle being a letter to someone upon a sacred subject—were scattered in churches and monasteries all over Palestine and Syria and Asia Minor. Up to four hundred years after Jesus' death there wasn't a true Bible anywhere in the whole world, just these scattered manuscripts on sheepskin.

It was a most learned man of the Catholic Church named St. Jerome, acting on the instructions of the prevailing Pope of the time, Damascus, who made a deliberate business of collecting all the hundreds upon hundreds of scattered rolls of sheepskin—some written in Greek, some in Hebrew, some in Syrian—sorting out those he believed genuine and translating them into Latin.

He didn't call this work the Bible, however. He called it the Vulgate. And it was all written in Latin.



THE BIBLE as we know it today didn't come into existence as a printed book in English until nine years before the Pilgrim Fathers sailed for Plymouth in the Mayflower. The name comes from the

Latin word for book, *biblia*. We get *bibliography* from the same root, which means a history of description of books or manuscripts in general.

The art of printing was only discovered a mere five hundred years ago, when Johann Gutenberg and a man named Fust, a rich goldsmith, built the first printing press ever used in the world in Mainz, Germany, and produced the first Bible ever read by man. The date it was finished was 1448, which queerly enough was almost exactly one thousand years after St. Jerome collected all the manuscript scrolls from the eastern monasteries and translated them to make the *Vulgate*. Another two hundred years passed before the Gutenberg Bible was translated from Latin into English, so that the man in the street could know exactly what it said without having to go to a priest and get it translated.

So, in the face of all this collecting and translating and printing, stretching over hundreds of years, you should see that when we talk about this sacred book being "the inspired word of God", we do it in the symbolic or poetic sense.

Wherever there was a manuscript that was revered for the high spiritual things contained in it, or the sacred historical matters it told about, it was called "God-inspired" . . . meaning that God prompted the earthly author to write as he did, that is, He gave him his inspiration. God being the author of all the Good in the world, to say nothing of the universe, it is the general inspiring tone of what was said or recorded that makes the Bible the "Word of God" to sincere Christian people. But that isn't exactly what we started to talk about . .



THE BIBLE is almost the only book preserved to the modern world that comes anywhere near telling the actual truth of what men up the last three thousand years have believed about the experiences awaiting the soul after the physical body dies. Moreover, inaccurate as it is in scores of places in its scientific and psychical facts, it is the one book in the world that comes closest to the true account of what happens. Now we are discovering that in dozens and scores of places what has seemed to be mistakes or wrong reports, was really treating the material in the poetic manner.

Some say in fact, not without cause, that the whole Bible should be regarded as one stupendous poem—like Dante's *Inferno* or Milton's *Paradise Lost*—and not as an historical or scientific book at all. Historical it is in spots, covering certain past periods in certain small countries of the East. In scarcely any particular is it scientific. But as a great poem of the earth's highest sacred matters, it is the world's outstanding masterpiece. No one of any culture or refinement makes fun of any sort of masterpiece, or says it is no good, because he admits he is not competent to pass judgment expertly.

One thing is certain, if it hadn't been for the New Testament we certainly should

never have had preserved to us the detailed account of the birth and life of Jesus, because that sublime biography is duplicated nowhere else entirely.

That alone, is one of the great debts we owe to those who have championed and preserved the Bible up the past twenty centuries.

Don't let anybody tell you that Soulcraft spurns the Bible or hasn't any use for it. What Soulcraft attempts to do is treat this vast spiritual poem as a challenge, that we go further and find out the facts of the matters of which it treats, making the Bible agree as we can with what is known from Science and worldly history. Soulcraft simply doesn't like to see people carrying around mistaken ideas about the Bible or its origin, founding great churches on statements that can't be proven literally, and proclaiming things to people about the experiences awaiting them after bodily death that flatly aren't so at all. That is almost as stupid as thinking to found a religion on Longfellow's poem, *The Village Blacksmith*, preaching that blacksmiths are a class of holy men merely because someone wrote a beautiful poem about one who had his shop in a New England village under a chestnut tree.

However, let's be logical!

The Bible is a Great Book!

ment Hall of Osiris. It was, we might call it, merely a guidebook of how to reach a celestial destination by making a perilous journey. Remember that the Egyptians did not believe in the one supreme Loving Father-God as Christians do today. They believed in forty-two Gods, all of whom sat in Judgment on the Soul, the court presided over by the God of Crops, Osiris.

10 Commandments
The priests taught the people to recite a single creed, which actually was the forerunner of Moses' Ten Commandments. It ran, "I come before ye without sin, and have done that wherewith the gods are satisfied. I have not slain, nor robbed, nor stirred up strife, nor lied, nor lost my temper, nor committed adultery, nor stolen food from any temple. . . I have given bread to the hungry, clothes to the naked, a ferry to him who had no boat." If the forty-two dread judges decided the soul was making such claim in light of the facts of his life, straightway he or it was dispatched to eternal relaxation in Paradise—which again is where Judaism and Christianity got the original notion of Heaven—but if it could not, or the judges decided it was falsely testifying, he or it was cast into Hell, there to be torn into shreds and eaten by a monster known as "The Devouress". Thereupon it perished and that was the end of it. Only the righteous and guiltless were thought to be deserving of life everlasting. But all this was priestly teaching, and not given out as a literature among the masses. So much for the *Book of the Dead* . . .

Another Bible

Parson

THE AVESTA was more like our Christian Bible, in that it contained what religious scholars call a Theology. It was called the *Zend-Avesta* because it was written in the sacred language of Zend. This was a form of speech employed for no other purpose. Its chief author and compiler was a religious teacher named Zarathrustra, very similar to Jesus, supposed to live about three thousand years ago. The religion he thus founded was called Zoroastrianism.

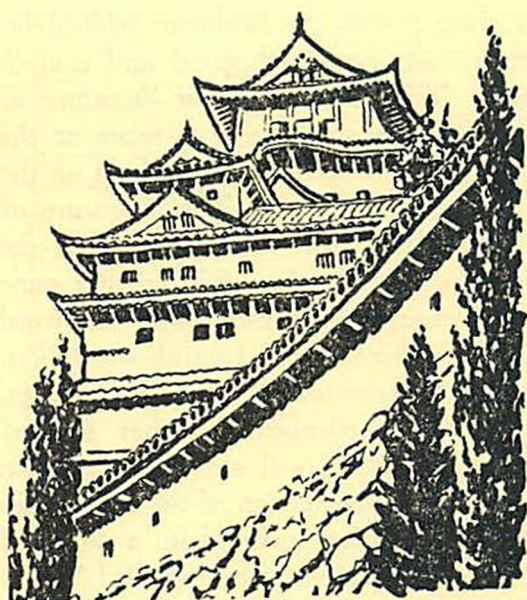
Zarathrustra is accredited in religious history as "the Man who invented the Devil". Up till his time, almost no other religion in the world had picked out any particular character or personage as the supreme ruler over Darkness and Evil. Zarathrustra identified him as Ahriman, or Mainyu, which was identified in the Egyptian theology as Set, the donkey-god, protector of the village of Ombos, from which we have evolved the name Satan.

Origin Devil



Zarathrustra preached that all the earthly universe was one great battleground on which Good and Bad struggled for mastery. On the one side was Ahura Mazda, the wisest of all spirits, supported by six vassals: Good Thought, Right Law, Noble Government, Holy Character, Good Health, and Spiritual Immortality. Pitted against these was Angra Mainyu, or Ahriman, the Lie Demon, in fact Prince of All Demons, supported by most of the old gods of the popular faith. Midway between the opposing armies of these stood Man. It was absolutely incumbent upon man to choose on which side he would battle: on the side of Good, Purity, and Light—or on the side of Evil, Filth and Darkness. There could be no compromise or evasion. "He who sows corn sows religion," was one of Zarathrustra's most celebrated sayings, "and Laziness is a thing of the devil."

As for the Avesta it is chiefly a bibliography of hymns called the Gathas, which Zarathrustra was supposed to go about the country singing, describing the final contest between the hosts of Ahura Mazda and Mainyu or Ahriman. The whole Hebrew saga of the Battle of Armageddon is lifted almost bodily from the Gathas, probably heard about and appropriated religiously while they were in Babylon during the two captivities. Certainly we know the Hebrews acquired their notions of the Devil and Hell there. They had almost none of it in their religion before they were removed to Babylon from Jerusalem forcibly.



But there is almost no reference in the Avesta to moral ethics as between man and man, no thought of any supremely loving creator, almost no metaphysics. The Devil stood practically on a par with God, and you acknowledged one or the other as your spiritual chieftain. After you died, your lifeless body was the unholy thing on earth and must be cast out into the fields for the vultures and crows to devour as quickly as possible.

Do you begin to see why I hold up our Christian Bible as in quite a different category from these earlier "religious" books?

HINDUISM began, we might put it, as a cajoling of the gods—three and thirty of them—to give the Indian masses better living conditions. Professional sacrificers came in, priests whose services at the altar were imagined to be somehow more effective than the services of ordinary men.

Avesta

By these priests the Brahman biblical literature was both elaborated and complicated. They created a vast literature of psalms and magic spells to recite at the altars in order to get a firmer hold on the attention of the gods. This literature of priestly incantations is what we call the Vedas, or holy books, of India that some would compare with our Bible. The word *Veda* is related to our English word *Wit*. Broadly interpreted, it means Knowledge, but refers particularly to that sort of knowledge which will aid a man to win the favor and protection of the thirty-three gods. There are more than a hundred books in existence which are called Vedas. The oldest and most important is called the Rig Veda, a collection of over a thousand hymns dating back as early as 2,000 B. C. Still, they are placating hymns and not a theology.

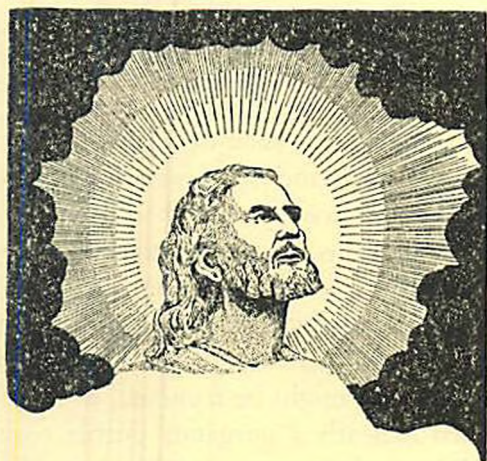
As for the *Koran*, the space in this month's magazine doesn't permit a full description of it, but it was—and is—largely the glorification of the Arab world, reiterating the one adjuration, "There is but one God, Alla, and Mohammed is His prophet." As we shall see when we come to consider Moslemism, it teaches and preaches that plundering and despoiling the non-Moslem world especially pleases the Deity.

These four books then, the book of charms to get to the Egyptian Judgment Hall unscathed, the book that divides the world into light and darkness and deifies Satan, the book that placates thirty-two gods into being kind to the East Indian, and the book that preaches the plundering and extermination of Islam's enemies, are



the only sacred literature that have survived pagan times to be considered along with the New Testament—the true *Christian's Bible*. The Old Testament, by the way, is only bound into the same covers with the Christian's Bible for literary convenience. Actually it is the Hebrew's Bible—although the moral precepts are much the same, and both glorify the worship of the one Heavenly Father.

Next month be sure and read a more detailed description of Ishtarism, and what religion was like in the most ancient historical city and country known to man—Babylon. Having speaking acquaintance with these earlier religions will bring you to see what holy heights the ministry of Jesus really carried the human race.



IF Jesus Appeared Would He Look as He Did Before?

¶ *FACTS about the Elder Brother's Physical Self that the Small Fry Should Be Told . .*

A SMALL-FRY Soul-
crafter, queried as to
the uppermost quan-
dary on his mind re-
specting Soulcraft,
put this immediate
question in response:

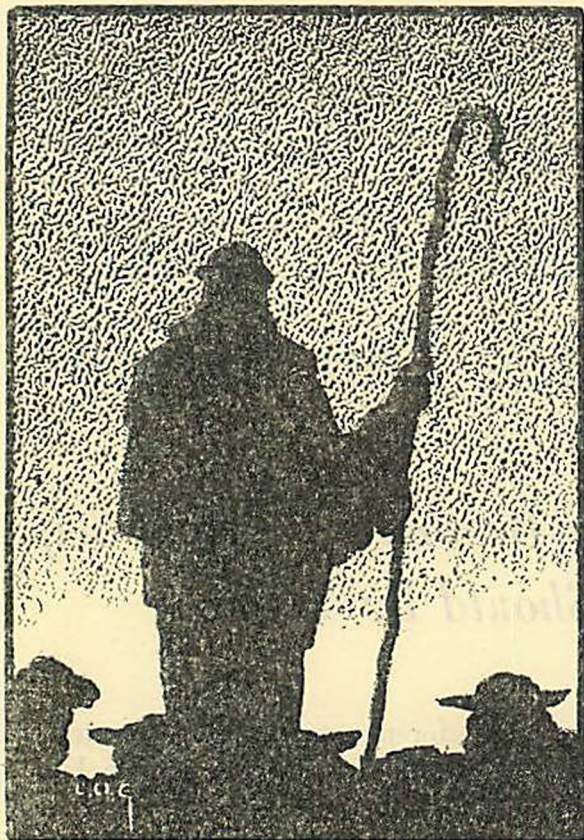
"If Jesus reappeared on the earth-plane to-
day, would we be able to recognize Him
from his long hair, beard, and white robes
commonly connected with His pictures
and portraits?" Oldsters might smile, but
the child-mind translates ideas almost al-
together in terms of pictures. However,
the answer requires a bit of explaining . .

Nine out of ten artists, both ancient and
modern, have merely had to present a male
figure with beard and feminine ringlets,
clad in a one-piece white garment, and the
representation is acclaimed at once as an
attempt to personify the Christ. If a lamb

be added for the crook of His left arm,
and if He hold a shepherd's staff in His
right hand, there is no question about it.
Facial expressions are forever secondary,
more's the pity.

And yet it's the facial expression actu-
ally that typifies the Real Messiah.

SPEAKING generally, Jesus in life had
a perfectly balanced set of aquiline fea-
tures, more Greek because he came of a
long line of Gauls that inhabited Galilee,
the land of the "goyim" or "strangers."
All Roman accounts of Him described His
blue-grey—not brown—eyes. The same
contemporary descriptions, one of them
apparently confirmed by the Hebrew his-
torian, Josephus, listed his hair and beard
as being a "dark wine-red"—probably to-
day we would call it auburn. No males in
those days patronized barbershops and had



their hair cropped close, as males do today. Barbers and barbershops were nonexistent. The long womanish locks of Jesus were patently the result of never having had His hair cut. All oriental persons of the masculine persuasion wore similar uncut hair but most of them knotted such lengthy tresses up and bound them under a burnoose or turban. Jesus apparently never covered His head thus. He went about bareheaded at all times. Thereby has His appearance been preserved to posterity as quasi-feminine, as we say, because women today as a rule go about showing the length of their hair as it is, no matter

how beautifully it may be dressed. That leave us with the item of His apparel . .

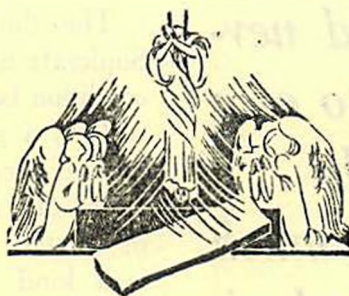
THE single-piece robe of all males nearly two thousand years ago was called the *abba*. In Christ's case it had been woven without seams, as witness the testimony to that effect when the Roman soldiers cast dice to see which of them should carry it away from Calvary. This single-piece white garment might be trimmed, or might be worn beneath a gorgeous purple toga-rob. We find to our great interest that such simple male costuming is the practice on most of the higher realms of spirit even to the present day. So the phrase maintains that the wearing of an *abba* is the same as being clad in "heavenly robes" . .

Therefore it is not far from wrong to conjecture that should Jesus materialize suddenly on the earth-plane, He would undoubtedly be clothed in the conventional higher-plane fashion. And that would present Him quite in accord with most of the Biblical representations of Him.

So visualizing Jesus, even of the present, in seamless white robes, with auburn hair and beard worn untrimmed, would not be far-fetched at all. But it would be the unutterable compassion and understanding upon His countenance that all higher-plane souls say makes for the truest identification of His divine personality.

All spirits on the Higher Planes emphasize this feeling of standing in the Presence of true Divinity when they meet His eyes for the first time upon making the Passing.

Don't worry, you'll know Him!



Understanding What Is Meant by Planes of Consciousness

BEGINNERS in Soulcraft are often heard to exclaim, "I wish somebody who knew what he was talking about would explain so I can visualize what is meant by *Planes*

of *Consciousness*. A given person is either conscious or he is not. If he's not conscious, he's dead. How then can you have consciousness by grades or stages?" Like many other examples of "reasoning" displayed by many mortals, it is built on an utterly false basis to start.

It is quite true to say that a person is either conscious or he is not. It is entirely in error to say that if a person is not conscious he is dead. A minute's thought will bring proof of this to mind. You get hit by a baseball on a sand-lot by accident and fall unconscious. Being unconscious means that you're *not* conscious, doesn't it? But because you've passed out in a faint or be-

¶ GRASPING *Different Planes of Etheria Isn't as Difficult as You at First Imagine . .*

cause for the moment you're stunned, does it prove necessarily that you're dead? You 'regain consciousness', you say, after a time, recover, and go about your business. Death actually is quite something else, and has little to do with consciousness or non-consciousness. It merely means that your consciousness has quit residing in your organic body permanently. By no means does it follow that because your soul-spirit has quitted your organic body that your consciousness has stopped for all time. Consciousness and your body are two different things. Consciousness isn't a *condition* of the body excepting when your soul

¶ A MAN should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong; but how much better to own that he is a wiser person today than he was yesterday!

is occupying it. When your consciousness moves elsewhere, your body is inert and "lifeless", as you put it. But you might as well say that when you're wearing a given suit of clothes, the clothes are alive, and when you take a given suit off, the clothing is 'dead'.

Your organic body is a sort of flesh-and-blood suit of clothes that you wear for a given period in earth-life. You can put off such garments and still be alive to yourself. The trouble is that your kith and kin likewise in the clothes of flesh, look at the suit you've just discarded by the process of 'dying' and treat the suit of clothes as though it were still you. Carefully they hold church services over these clothes and bury them most tenderly in a cemetery lot, to religious preaching and sacred music. The real you meanwhile has donned another kind of clothes, more adapted to your new condition . .

STILL, that's not precisely what this article started to discuss.

The thing that puzzles beginners in Soulcraft is this question of the conscious condition being classified by planes. What truly is a plane of consciousness when a person is either conscious or unconscious as the case may be? Letting alone the item of whether the body is alive or dead, or is a kind of clothing or isn't clothing. What examples have we in earth-life that would explain various "stages" of consciousness?

Well, we have *three*.

We can illustrate by going back to the claim that when consciousness is en housed in some sort of organism, such organism is called "alive" on this plane of earth. What would we identify as the very lowest form of consciousness in this earth-world? The answer is easy. Couldn't we say it was fish-life, existing deep, deep down in the water of one of our great oceans?

No one would be so stupid as to declare that fish weren't alive or weren't conscious. They certainly are alive and conscious enough to make a grab for our worm on the end of a fishline, and swallow it, and get hauled to land. Yet fish can't read books, or know how television works, or even know how to handle themselves and get about in any other element but water. Very good then, let's call fish-life the lowest Plane of Consciousness that exists in our world of Nature. What would come next?



We know that according to biology, land mammals came about by fish forms of life learning to breathe air through their gills, and when they had conditioned themselves organically to breathe more and more air without strangling, they flopped up on dry land as tadpoles and lizards. From being amphibious as we term it—amphibious meaning able to live either in water or on land—there came time in their upward development that they remained on land permanently and never went back into the water at all. They learned to secure food on land instead of having it dart past them in water, whether it contained a fishhook or not. They learned to find shelter for their young in holes in rocks, finally to fashion artificial holes for themselves or progressing higher and higher toward the ape and human forms, to make buildings to shelter them from storms on land.

All this additional knowledge brought them a higher and wider expanding or raising of consciousness. They remembered they were alive, just as they knew it as private and personal information when they were fish in the sea, but their consciousness had increased to take in all the details of land life. That might be called a Second Plane of Consciousness. Their organic equipment had adapted itself to land life until no vestige of fish life was left in them or to them. What next?

THE NEXT Plane of Consciousness might be termed Air Consciousness, or bird-life.

The evolutionists explain that birds, no

matter how beautiful their plumage today, really are descendants of flying reptiles, which once were sea creatures. The ancestors of the birds actually seemed to have been the flying lizards of prehistoric times. Instead of front legs they grew wings that flapped their bodies into the air. Gradually, as they adapted themselves to winged freedom, they grew feathers, and ceased to look so much like reptiles. In fact they became practically a species unto themselves. And their element was air.



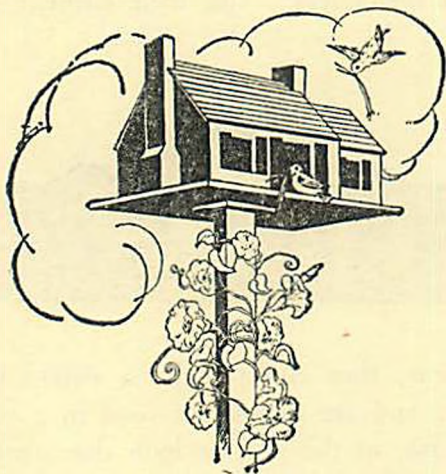
True, they could make a swoop into water and get themselves food in a passing fish, as the gull or loon does to this day. When they got weary of flapping their wings or soaring, they could return to earth and either perch on rocks or on limbs of trees. But they really had a different degree of consciousness than the land animal or the fish. They knew that they were alive, just as the land animal or fish knew it. But their consciousness sought a different way of displaying itself, and worked in a wider and freer medium.

So right here in earth-life, meaning organic life, we have three planes of consciousness disclosed to us: Fish Consciousness, Animal Consciousness, and Bird Consciousness—each knowing itself as aliveness but each treating with a different

3 forms of Consciousness

element, and being experts in different elements, Water, Land, and Air. We are really talking about self-awareness living, moving and performing in different sets of conditions, being cleverer and wiser as it develops upward.

Don't you see, therefore, how you could carry the same thought up to elements not commonly sustaining life on this plane, adding two others, Ether and Thought?



NOW this doesn't mean for a moment that birds are cleverer than human beings in the sense that human beings are cleverer than fish. We're considering how Consciousness can alter its width and breadth of performance by operating in different elements. Soulcraft teaches us that Ether and Thought are just as distinctive elements in their ways as Air, Land, or Water.

The best analogy—or example—we have of this in the mortal sense is the butterfly. We know that all butterflies start life really as ordinary grubs or worms.

They live a certain length of time as worms, burrowing in soil or the trunks of trees. When they've lived that type of worm or grub life long enough, they spin a cocoon about their worm or grub selves and go to sleep. After enough time has passed, they wake up, gnaw a hole out of their cocoons and crawl through it into aerial freedom, discovering that while they've been asleep they've grown beautifully colored wings. Actually they're Grub Birds.

The human spirit does almost the same thing, only the cocoon is lacking and they don't require to sleep so long. Liken the grub-self to the fleshly body-self—that again is the suit of clothes that the soul wears a given number of mortal years, and call the process of gnawing out of the flesh cocoon “dying” and you get a fairly good picture of what takes place respecting Soul Consciousness. Really it's the grub's consciousness that enters into the butterfly and goes fluttering away among the lilacs or roses. But it's performing in a new medium for a grub—the air.

By the same token we can say the soul is the same consciousness that operated in the earth-body but it's broken out into a new medium—*Ether*. Again, however, don't think we mean the ether we inhale when we go to the dentist's to have a tooth pulled with as little pain as possible . . .

What then, is Ether in the higher cosmic sense?

EETHER in the higher cosmic sense is the basic essence in Nature of which all atomic materials are formed by different varieties and speeds of their atoms. It ex-

ists hypothetically, that is in logical imagination, on this plane and everywhere but not in the same density that we become conscious of it and live in it when we get *above* or *beyond* Air.

When we get above or beyond Air, we make the still greater discovery that Thought, or Constructive Imagination, can control and mold ether the same way that the cabinet-maker's hands can cut a design in beautifully grained wood with a chisel, or a potter can shape clay to get a beautiful vase. Ether, in other words, *obeys Thought*.

You "think things" and ether results in producing them. Thought seems to have magnetic properties, we might put it, that makes ether obey it the way iron filings obey a steel magnet—only the other way about. Instead of being drawn toward Thought by some sort of attraction, as the magnet draws iron filings, Thought orders what ether shall do and ether forthwith does it. Sounds simple, and mighty interesting to see proven, all the same you need a still higher grade of Consciousness to credit it. Exactly the same way does the fish need the higher grade of consciousness to credit what life on land must be like, or the animal needs a higher grade of consciousness to credit what the sensations of a bird must be, winging high over a storm-cloud.

Then among the final steps that Consciousness makes is to leave even Ether behind it and live *in* and *of* itself, all things of seeming substance contained *within* it. This is somewhat of an impossible and perhaps absurd idea to ordinary folk still on

the earth-plane of consciousness. But the higher folk tells us that it is nevertheless possible and that it happens.



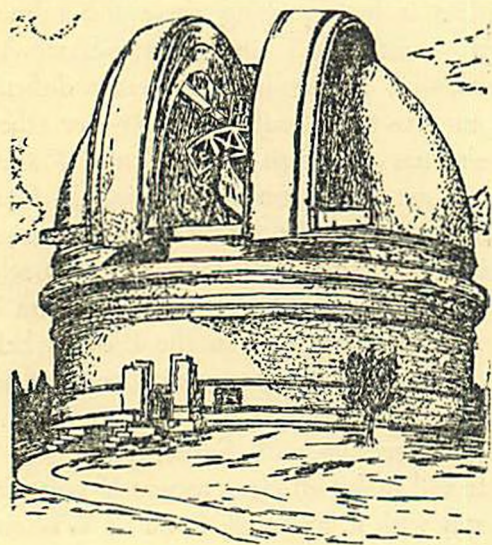
AT ANY rate, when people ask Soulcraft to explain Planes of Consciousness—or when *you* next hear it inquired—explain it by repeating these fish-animal-bird conditions, or Water-Earth-Air "planes" . . . thus it isn't overly difficult to imagine there could be Ether—or etheric—planes and even Pure Mental Planes. If we get up stupendously high in Consciousness, we even begin to learn about Planes of Flame and Light, and how self-conscious creatures can live and perform in them. Not flames as in the Biblical hell, but flames that may represent the universes in the starry heavens.

Just keep on with Soulcraft.

It will make all clear to you if you care to stay with it, and soak in all its Wisdom.

SOME New Facts About the Heavens We Are Learning from the Fl

LAST MONTH we left off our story about the heavenly bodies with descriptions of how the Planetoids or Asteroids between Mars and Jupiter probably came into existence. This month we want to examine the facts we possess about the remaining worlds within our own solar system, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. Maybe after that we shall take a general look about the heavens and see what other solar systems may be our neighbors . .



ASTRONOMY May Take On New Meanings as We Consult Those Who Claim to Have Visited Other Planets . .

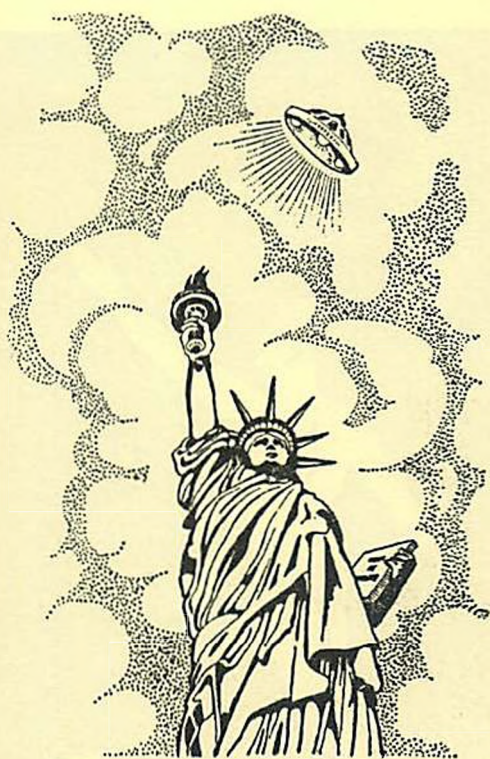
Next there's Saturn. It's the sixth major planet in order of distance from the sun. It's about nine times the size of our earth, being 73,713 miles in diameter. This doesn't make it quite the size of Jupiter but it's very close—falling short of Jupiter's diameter by about 10,000 miles. Likewise it's nine times the distance from the sun that we are. But Saturn is distinctive among all our sun's planets in that it has a visible ring about it, although the most powerful telescopes are required to see it. Likewise it has not just one moon, as earth has, but *ten* of them. Imagine living on Saturn, and going out on a summer's night and seeing ten moons lighting up the sky!

ly Bodies that ying Saucer Voyagers

Another peculiar thing about Saturn is its density. Looked at through an ordinary telescope, the true surface of the planet can scarcely be seen because of an envelope of vapor that seems to enshroud it perpetually, the famous ring showing outside this vapor. It is thought that the hard core of the planet under this vapor canopy is one of the densest in the whole solar system. We should remember, however, that if there are people alive on Saturn—and the Space Men say most emphatically there are—daylight to them presents an entirely different aspect. The perpetual cloud canopy would shut off the direct light of the sun as we get it—and remember coming from nine times as far away it would logically be nine times as dim—and probably produce much the same effect that we of earth suffer every rainy or foggy day.

By the same token, by no manner of means would the ten moons of Saturn show themselves as anywhere as near as bright as Old Luna, granting there are more of them.

APPARENTLY the great plate-like ring around Saturn is made of cosmic dust held captive in such form by the



great planet's gravity. Whether the dwellers on Saturn would be as constantly aware of this ring as we are, viewing it from a distance, is another conundrum. If their planet is covered by a foggy water canopy, they would have no such uninterrupted view of the universe that we have. The earth's water-canopy has long since fallen and given us clear and clean heavens, because the slowing down of the earth's rotation over untold ages has diminished the centrifugal force.

But here is the still more dramatic thing about Saturn . . . it requires twenty-nine years and four months of our earth time to make the complete circuit of the sun. That means that its summers are seven of our summers in length, and its winters sev-



en times the length of our winters. Thus an earth-man on Saturn, the way we tell time, would be only a little over one of Saturn's years in age when he reached his majority, and if he died at sixty to ninety of our years, he would be a doddering and bewhiskered old patriarch at three to four years old—again as earthly time is figured, a year meaning the length of time required for the planet to encircle Old Sol completely.

By the way, during each of the two Saturn equinoxes, the plate-like rings are

seen edgewise from Earth. The elapsing time is half the time of the evolution, thus a season that began back in 1937 didn't finish until 1951, and whatever season Saturn is this moment enjoying won't come to end until 1965.

ALL RIGHT, we take another jump, out from the sun. Then we come next upon Uranus. Now we begin to get into some truly miraculous distances and figures.

Uranus was discovered to be a part of our solar system by Sir William Herschel in 1781—the year our Revolutionary War was closing. To the naked eye it looks like an ordinary star of the sixth magnitude. That is because its distance from the sun is over one and three quarter *billion* miles—to be exact, 1,782 millions.

But now be prepared to have your teeth knocked out. It takes 84 earth-years to make one year on Uranus. In other words, Uranus travels eighty-four times the distance that we on earth do, to make its circuit of the sun. If the spring equinox began on March 21, 1955, the December 21st equinox—the time in the year when day and night measure exactly the same length—wouldn't arrive till December 21st, 2,039 A. D. Think of having perpetual summer for 42 years! But then, think of having perpetual winter for 42 years as well!

However, partially compensating for such interminable winters, Uranus is known to turn so much faster than earth that its days are only from nine to ten

hours long. Astronomers tell us the actual amount of solid matter in Uranus exceeds our earth's by something like 67 times but its solid mass is only about 12 times. It has four moons, instead of Earth's One, Mars' two and Saturn's ten.

Next we tighten our belts and take a *real* jump through the heavenly spaces. We go to Neptune.

Neptune was discovered in 1845. Estimated to be 85 times as big as the earth and nearly 3 billion miles from the sun, it seems incredible that Old Sol could be its controlling star in the heavens. It takes 165 earth-years for it to go once around the sun, being almost thirty times as far away. Of the eighth stellar magnitude, it isn't even visible to the human eye. Even through the most powerful telescopes, no features and no changes of appearance can be detected, so astronomy knows little or nothing about its period of rotation. The red and yellow bands into which the spectrum breaks its light indicates an atmosphere of great depth, in which hydrogen must be the main constituent, precisely like the planet Earth. In fact, whoever could live on Neptune could live on Earth and vice versa. It also has but a single moon.

But there is queer business going on constantly in regard to Neptune. Its moon goes *backward* in orbital motion from all the other planets and satellites anywhere in the solar system. What in the world ever makes it do that? Astronomers are stumped. Then again, there is a constant change going on in the position of its orbital plane. Were this planet spherical in form—that is, ball or globe shaped—like its eight neighbors, no such change

could occur. It can't be a true sphere or else it is whirling at an incredible speed compared to our own. Very possibly its days are merely a few hours of earth's, long. But of its densities or atmospheres, astronomers admit they know very little. The great telescope on Palomar may have detected something accurate about it, but no news has as yet been given out.

¶ *REMEMBER always,
the noblest and most
befitting crown is a
Crown of Thorns . .*

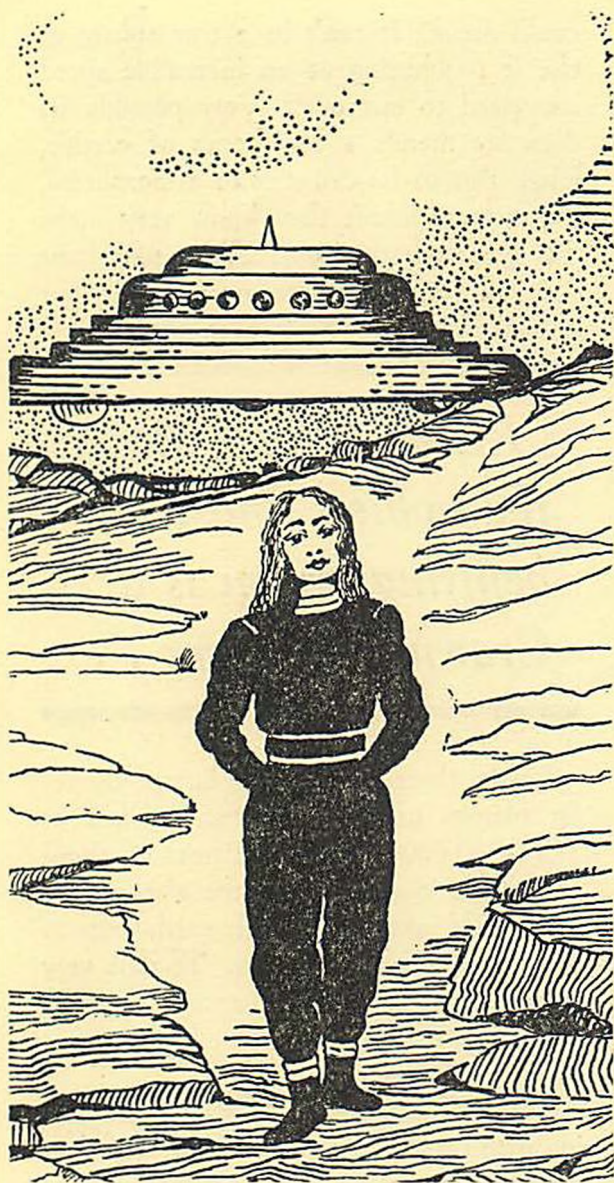
Lastly, there is Pluto, the last of the solar planets to be discovered—as late as 1930—10,000 miles in diameter, about one and a quarter times the size of our earth, that takes 250 of our earth-years to make the circuit of our sun. To date very little otherwise has been detected about it. It is supposed to be the very *outer* planet of our strict solar unit.

Most of the Space Men communicating with earth beings from the Flying Saucers declare that we haven't yet discovered all the planets of our sun. Pluto may be the ninth but it is by no means the last.

There are twelve in all—three more that men haven't discovered.

Strange that we always seem to come back in Cosmos to that Number 12, the number of Christ's disciples.

What the names of the undiscovered



three may be, we don't know. Names would mean little, anyway. Most of the known planets have been given names by man, after the Greek mythology. Our planet incidentally, isn't known as Earth to the inhabitants of Venus or Mars, but *Shan*—or *Saros-Shan*. Saros means "sor-

rowful", it's reported. This the "Sorrowful Planet Shan" because of the war and brutality and injustice practiced upon it, compared to the other planets which seem to be free of such troubles.

Truman Bethurum of California alleges he talked with a lady commander of a Flying Saucer that landed in Arizona and Nevada desert the past two years who contended she and her crew had come to earth from the planet Clarion, or Klaron. This might well be the name of some planet we designate by the name of some old Greek god. It remains to be seen.

REMEMBER that outside comets and meteorites, there are no other heavenly bodies but those described, inside the great orbit of Pluto. This arrangement of planets swinging about Old Sol century after century is considered a solar "unit"—a sort of gigantic atom, with the sun the proton and the nine—or it may be twelve—planets as electrons. But what takes away our breath is to be told that universal Space is so stupendous that it literally contains *billions* of such solar units or celestial "atoms" . . . far beyond the view of any telescope. These "atoms" in turn, we are told, contain their own forms of life in that definite varieties of consciousness maintain on them. Beside such consciousness, our mortal consciousness on this earth-ball is but a one-cell variety, in the kindergarten of the omniverse, so to speak. Next month we'll go on with the most obvious of the nearby constellations and their peculiar "worlds" . . .



DON'T Fool Yourself that No Romance Continues after Death

THERE are millions of people who have been led to take for granted that once they get out of earth-life by dying physically, it's a case of bidding goodbye to all aspects of romancing and romantic love as between adult men and women and in the matter of love affairs they're "all washed up." But that's not the way we get it from those who have actually attained to the higher levels of life, themselves. There's even *more* loving and romancing goes on in the loftier octaves of consciousness than ever displays upon earth, only it's a clear and sincere affection and not based upon mere attractions of physical sex.

The Bible long ago informed us that "in heaven there is neither marriage nor giving in marriage", so millions of child-

¶ *But Women Become More Beautiful and Men More Manly, Heightening Affections*

ish-minded people have interpreted this to mean that all romantic and domestic relationships go kaput, men and women never regard each other as connubial companions, and sex as a troublesome item is forever abolished. It hasn't occurred to one in a million to grasp that perchance the information can be taken literally, that there isn't any marriage in the *legal* sense, but that men and women associate freely and love sincerely without requiring to register it somewhere before a dignitary.

This condition, of course, is considered reprehensible from the view of earth ethics, being stigmatized as Free Love. One Mentor in remarking upon it years ago, made the exclamation, "What else should *true* love be but FREE?"

However, don't make the mistake of concluding that because there are no legal ceremonies to join one man to one woman, that the celestial unions are promiscuous. Far from it.



ONE of the oddest conditions maintaining on planes immediately above the physical, we are informed, is the fact that one's thoughts have no such privacy to the individual thinking them as is the practice during life in the body. Verbal or audible speech in the higher octaves has no such universal employment for conveying ideas as it does Down Here. People discourse by powers of thinking, and such thinking is at once transferred into the brain-mind of the associate as though it had been spoken with the mouth. The result is, that it is well-nigh impossible in the loftier

realms for people to say one thing and mean another. Whatever they *think* is more or less public property, particularly when it concerns a given person.

Apply this perturbing condition of affairs to love and romance, and no man could tell a woman he loved her without her knowing instantly the truth of whether he spoke sincerely or not. No woman could ever carry on a crass flirtation with a man, leading him to believe she preferred him to any other male. He would grasp at once her true reactions to him.

All this makes for a total and quick cleaning-up of the romantic relations. Or rather, they go perforce upon a basis of the utmost sincerity. However, on the other hand, there are no physical sex liaisons. There being no physical procreations, men and women do not desire to possess one another purely for the organic enticements. They love each other in the purest spiritual manner or not at all. Therefore, there is never any particular need for a man and woman withdrawing into personal privacies to carry on the intimate relationships. Love and romance as a dual attraction rests strictly upon Character and mutual interests apart from anything physical.

Thus are most complications extracted from romancing between the sexes, and when a men and women withdraw into anything like privacy it is because they wish the benefits of each other's company in isolation and not amid the distractions of surrounding personalities.

However, it is an absurd blunder to conclude that graduated souls lose their sex characteristics through making the Passing. In fact, we might almost put it that



the very opposite manifests. Women on the higher planes are more womanly than ever, and men are more manly in the individual instance. Furthermore, women are more entrancingly beautiful in face, figure, and movement, because by the powers of Thought they can remedy any physical defects or deficiencies that handicapped them in mortality . .

BUT MAKE no mistake about it, if a woman shall have wholeheartedly loved a given man on earth, or man loved a given woman, that affair simply compounds and increases under the sweeter freedoms of the higher dimensions. Romances may almost be said to go on to the most blissful culminations. One the other hand, where marital unions of earth have been but accommodation affairs, or as some of the more cynical have phrased it "legalized prostitutions", these are swiftly and completely terminated. And no regrets.

The higher planes are planes of absolute honesty and integrity in relationships between the sexes. We all go Onward with our most beloved companions of earth-life as we elect. The "matrimony" that seems to be recognized on the planes above mortality is the union of two souls, completely engrossed in each other because of their mutuality of interests and aspirations, who prefer each other's companionship above all else.

Nothing fine and pure and brave encounters anything on the higher planes but the most beautiful culminations. If a husband and wife on earth have not been congenial to each other, in nine cases out of ten it has been due to diversity of spiritual achievements. On the higher planes, they will occupy different levels in consequence.

Particularly in matters of romance, it is "better further on!" . .



WHAT You Should Know about Ghosts to Understand Them

HAVE you ever noticed that nothing can send more scare through a neighborhood, anywhere in the nation, than a report circulating that evidence has come to light that a certain house is being "haunted" by a ghost? As far back as history records, the very suggestion of a ghost being about—usually in darkest hours of night—has been enough to make the most courageous person quake with an unexplainable terror. There is something especially uncanny and eerie about the thought of a person who has died, managing to make a reappearance among living people on earth. It is interesting to ask ourselves how such horrible fright arises? Why should the average person turn paper-white at thinking he sees a phantom or apparition—two additional names for ghosts? Why is the person who is often the most frightened, the first to

¶ *YOU May Appear
Like a Ghost Yourself
to People on Higher
Levels of Existence . .*

declare "There are no such things as ghosts?"

Truth to tell, the fear arises not so much from dread of some awful thing that such ghost, phantom, apparition—"spook" in popular language—might do to them physically as from the general confronting of a situation by the earthly mortal which is of so rare an occurrence that there is no positive and proven knowledge of how to deal with it. In almost every other situation which the normal person meets in life, there is some defense that is known, or some expedient recommended for conducting the self which others have already tried and found effective. It is the absolute blank that exists in the matter of

knowledge that treats with the invisible world, that makes the thought of a haunting so unnerving.

What people truly are afraid of, in other words, is their own lack of knowledge. *We never fear anything that we fully understand.*

CAN WE ever hope to understand ghosts? Perhaps we ought to ask a much more important question first . . . ARE there such things as ghosts, and if so, what are they?

It is not enough to declare that a ghost is a disembodied spirit, meaning a spirit without a body like our own. That would not be strictly correct, anyhow. If a ghost, so-called, were utterly without a body, it could not be seen or heard under any conditions whatsoever.

To be discernible by anyone—whether the anyone is terrified or not terrified—a spirit must possess or operate in some kind of a body. Always remember that. True, it may not be a body that is precisely like the shape or density of bodies used by average people going about their daily business. Still, it is a body. Furthermore, also remember this, . . . that such body is entirely as real to the spirit said to be doing the haunting as his or her own physical self is to the person hearing or seeing the terrifying demonstrations of it.

The thing that terrifies us on this spiritual plane of earth is apparently observing human forms that are either vaporous in appearance, or deporting themselves in some manner that expresses terror or insane grief. It doesn't occur to one person

in fifty who sees a ghost—or thinks he does—that maybe the ghost itself isn't aware for one moment of presenting a ghostly appearance to any person on this earthly side of life.

All of which is saying in an indirect fashion that there ARE ghosts and there AREN'T ghosts. That sounds contradictory, but it isn't. There are vaporous aspects or appearances of persons who have passed through the experience of dying, and they are labeled ghosts by persons on this side who happen to catch sight of them or hear them moving about. But they truly aren't ghosts as the ordinary person considers them.

They are merely people giving evidential proof of the continuity of life and survival of the thinking soul after bodily death, without being aware that they are distressing some mortal person by scaring him out of his wits.

¶ **INCREDULITY**
robs us of many pleasures and gives nothing in return . .

TAKE note for one thing that you never heard of a ghost, or such vaporous-appearing person ever harming anybody on this side of life, not in the case of the ordinary haunting at least. The chief reason for this should be clear—

¶ EARNESTNESS *commands respect. A wavering, vacillating, half-alive Christian does not get the respect of the church nor of the world . .*

They may be moving about earth-scenes that were earlier familiar to them, but they are not doing so on the same density of materials. Well enough you should admit that a person composed of material of no greater density than vapor would not be able to pick up a club and hit anyone on this side over his quite physical head. True, there have been cases reported with fair degree of truth, where such vaporous persons have opened or closed doors or pushed a book or a dish off a shelf. It has been argued that if they can exert any force at all on substantial objects in this earth-world, they should as easily swing a club or an axe and bash one's brains out.

But it never happens.

The reason it never happens is, that the effort involved in lifting, let's say, a ball-club, demands more energy than the spookish persons commands. Even shutting a door or knocking a vase off the mantel requires more energy than the spookish person commands. So he or she—depending

on whether it is a male or female spook—has to borrow the force from the life energies of the very person who is being scared or thinks himself threatened. And fright soon puts a stop to that. Fright causes a condition where the mortal person concentrates every ounce of force he possesses to be ready for defense. The same thing operates to make the blood drain out of your face, as the saying has it, when you are terribly frightened. Nature is preparing your body to defend itself, concentrating the blood in other parts of the body that may need to engage in fighting, carrying the most energy where it may be needed most-est.

THE THING that frequently happens, giving rise to the rumor of a "haunt", is the regret or grief of some unlearned person—unlearned in these matters at least—in that they never studied much Soulcraft before they died—that they have had to leave earth-life when they did, and thinking about the former scenes that were so dear and familiar to them, carries them back in their light-bodies, or pattern bodies, also called etheric bodies, to those very earth-scenes. If some tragic thing has happened in those scenes, as frequently does occur, and they utter a cry of rage or sorrow or even fright at the thought of living it over again in recollection, they may set up vibrations that translate to earthly ears as sound. But they may not be any more aware that they are doing it than a grief-stricken person at an accident where some dear one has been frightfully hurt is aware that they are carrying on, or sobbing or screaming. But the earth per-

son gets it and we see him horridly scared.

Funny thing, a ghost—to use that term for a person operating out of his proper dimension of matter—may be just as scared of the appearance of an earth person as the earth person is scared of the vaporous apparition.

Here are two persons, equally terrified of one another, without the slightest suspicion that each is causing the effect on the other. Now wouldn't you call it a silly way to act? And it all comes about through ignorance.

MOST of us think of Heaven being a solemn and sedate place where beautiful angels go wafting about in the utmost dignity, and nobody ever cracks a joke the year around. The writer of this article attended a seance on one occasion where the soul-spirit said the course of his remarks to the earth-people, "Don't run off with the idea that there's no humor or good fellowship in the after-life as we live it. We have our things to joke about, the same as you do on your plane. In fact, the biggest joke of all to us—something that never fails to get a laugh when it's mentioned—is the general belief held by earth-people that we're spooks and ghosts and phantoms . . . without any real substance. Remember, nine times out of ten when we encounter you from our condition, you appear just as vaporous and ghostlike as you say we do to you. However, we're not frightened of *you* because in our world we understand the processes that are operating."

That was comforting, wasn't it?

If people in fleshly bodies only understood wisely that ghosts are just as real people as soul-spirits in bodies on this side, all fright would end before it ever had a chance to start. Put it in this way—

Suppose your own soul-spirit was able to detach itself from its bodily organism and penetrate into the heavenly dimensions, and you overheard somebody scream or saw him bolt to get away from you, would it occur to you that it was because he considered *you* a ghost?



PEOPLE are instructed wrongly to accept that when an earthly person dies or is killed, that *that's* all there is to such a one, he's perished, ceased to exist, done for, and can never be heard from again. As for the "dead" man's consciousness, it's just as alive and active to himself as it ever was. But he's suddenly entered a different rate of material vibration.

One big thing he finds he can do, is to put himself in any place, at any distance, that he wants to be by *thinking* himself into such place. Presto, he's *there*! It's just one of the peculiarities of the next life, making things different from this life we live in clumsy physical bodies. But if



he should wish to be back in earthly scenes and tries to think himself *there*, he may discover himself there indeed. If it's in earthly daylight, with all sorts of worldly traffic noises sounding on every hand, nobody may suspect such presence on his part. But if it happens to be in twilight or even black night, when all earth-sounds are reasonably hushed, his soul-radiation may cause his higher and finer body to be visible and he may even cause a board to creak beneath his "phantom" footstep. If it happens in a house otherwise darkened and empty, and a late passerby catches sight of him or hears footfalls in an empty room, the passerby will probably get out of that vicinity about as fast as his flesh-and-blood legs can carry him. He'll re-

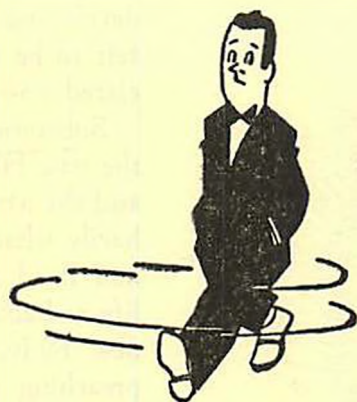
port to everyone he meets that such-and-such a place is "haunted" . .

The returned visitor in his light-body might have no idea of haunting a house than you might of haunting a church by stealing into it in midweek evening if it were unlocked, to kneel in a pew and offer up a prayer for some loved one who is ill. But you can't convince the person who never read Soulcraft that any such thing is a fact.

YES, when the average person sees "something out of this world" it scares him witless and speechless. But that's chiefly because the average human being is utterly dumb in respect to these higher-life matters. Men who've spent their lives studying psychical research, never blink an eye at confronting anything "out of this world" . . they take it in stride as the most ordinary circumstance. They would no more think of being terrified by a spook than they would be terrified in accosting a stranger coming up and passing them on a public street. By the way, there are people so primitive, in the backwoods of civilization, say in little lost mountain villages, that the sight of a stranger on their streets *does* upset them till they are almost witless and speechless—and scamper.

Just don't be afraid of a ghost, because a ghost has no physical power to injure you. Always try to find out what might be on its mind.

You could advance the cause of psychical science perhaps by discovering it.



BUILD Your Faith on Facts of Spirit and End Your Worries

A

LL OF us have met mean, quarrelsome, elderly people who forever want to argue matters of religion.

One wonders why questions of religion always challenge them to argument. Sometimes it seems that the better church-goers they show themselves, the more pronounced they affect to be on matters of doctrine that weigh the conduct of other people, regardless of the fact that one of the things Jesus emphasized most was not to judge other people's behavior because by doing so you're only disclosing your own wisdom or limitations.

Do you know what truly ails these elderly, quarrelsome, religious people?

¶ MOST People Quarrel about Religion Due to their Uncertainty Over Heavenly Facts

If the facts could be proven by actual digging into their subconscious minds, you would see that they began growing such dispositions back in childhoods or youth from wrong or incorrect information about God and heaven and the afterlife.

Nine out of ten of them got themselves born into families that were members of some church denomination whose religious faith was founded on incorrect beliefs in



turn, and they have known from the first in their subconscious minds that their church wasn't preaching what was actually true. But everybody around them seemed to believe it, and their fathers and mothers had long talks with them about the "sin" of thinking any different about religion than the priest or the minister taught, and gradually they grew along with a conflict

developing inside them, between what they felt to be right and what their elders declared was right.

Subconsciously they realized at first what the true facts were about God and heaven and the afterlife, because they could recall hazily what it was like in the regions they had lived in before being born into this life as babies. But here they are in a fresh new body, with everyone around them preaching something quite different and telling them as they grow along that they will be severely punished for disputing it. God will punish them, their elders declare. And God's punishment will take the form of sentencing them to eternity in the bad place. Actually nobody has ever proven there is a Bad Place although millions have discovered a Good Place. But their parents and elders seem to be so fascinated by this belief of theirs in the Bad Place that they preach it morning, noon, and night, and go 'round in a fever of worry about landing in it themselves.

So such boys and girls give up to what everybody in earth-life seems to believe, and the cares of education, and business, and families of their own make them utterly forget those impressions of the Life-that-Was-Before. The effect of the whole of it is to make these people live continually in a fury of resentment inside.

And they take out this resentment by being mean, quarrelsome and touchy on points of Religion . .

SOULCRAFT declares that a person should believe religiously only what his conscience dictates he should believe. Religious conscience comes in the majority of

cases from subconscious recollection of what each soul-spirit has found out to be true for himself when on other planes of being, but usually exercised in some sort of compromise with prevailing conditions of spiritual thinking—called for want of a better word Theology—on the earth-plane when he gets onto it.

But it is vastly important, for the sake of saving oneself heartburn and distress of spirit in other years, to have at least the fundamentals of psychical research well established in the intelligence.

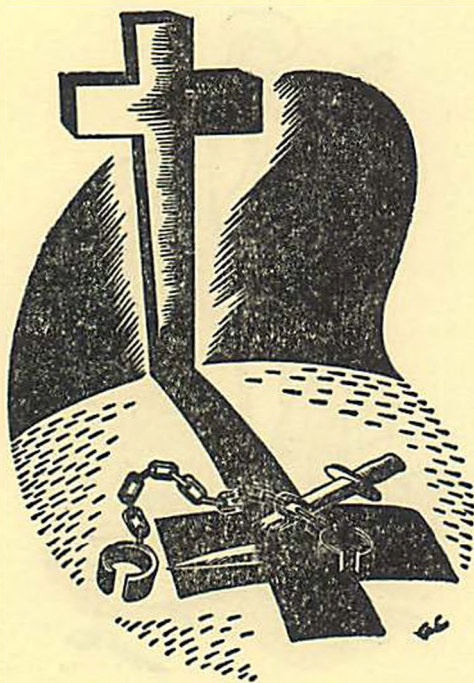
In other words, know what the experiences of other souls have been, as they have survived death and studied the facts of their arisen condition, then communicated them back to people in earth-life, and one has a fairly accurate basis for weighing and estimating the truth or falsity of any given denomination.

FOR instance, there are denominations whose faith is built on avoiding eternity spent in hell-fire. That religion of terror and fright believes it quite all right to try to make people good by scaring them to death with threats of future punishment. Not one of their followers has ever received a communication from a soul that has gone beyond the grave else they wouldn't embrace such an absurd and wicked doctrine in ten thousand years. But millions of their communicants spend their whole lives fretting and worrying about the possibility of landing in such conditions.

Nowhere, searching these higher realms and inviting information about them, can



we discover anybody who's ever had the slightest experience with any fiery hell and eternal torment. We *do* find plenty of information—or have it communicated back to us—of so-called Shadowlands on planes beyond earth where people create their own living conditions by the characters they've permitted themselves to show when in earth-life. But it's far from being the Hell of Dante's *Inferno*. There is no such creature as the Devil. There are no imps and no demons. There are only sordid and brutal ex-creatures like the Stalins and Genghis Khans and Tamerlanes of history, who have dictated their own after-life conditions from their own limitations of beauty and mercy and compassion in dealing with their fellowmen. But actually they don't have to stay in such conditions



one half-second longer than they choose to do so. They can flee such conditions and start upward the instant they elect to alter their ways of life and thought. But instead of burning pitch and brimstone, they are just regions of murk and ugliness because the souls content to dwell in them have no sense of beauty or urge to improve them.

But hell . . . no! Not as the more fiery and vindictive preachers get up and preach revival sermons about it.

Tens of thousands of Soulcrafters have discovered up the past twenty-five years that when they compare all the direct testimony contained in communications from those souls who have passed onto higher planes of consciousness, some of the major worries they've had pounded into them in youthful years all dissolve and disappear.

It boils down into deciding which is better, basing one's beliefs on things said by writers who lived two thousand years ago—who didn't even know the earth was round and revolved about the sun—or basing them on spoken evidence offered by near and dear relatives who have made the passing called Death and discovered the basic facts from first-hand observation.

YOU SEE, Soulcraft isn't a religion, strictly speaking. *Soulcraft is a course of study that examines all religions to find out those that have apparent Truth as the basis for them and those that are based on some old prophet's say-so, or what some pagan people once inherited in the way of religious ideas before the coming of Jesus.*

When you examine those religions that come nearest to fitting the facts as dead people discover them, you discover as well there isn't one single thing in the whole universe to be fearful about, excepting your own unwillingness to buckle down and acquire real knowledge in order to qualify for all the good things in store for you. As you get deeper and deeper into the study of Soulcraft you find that God is something else than merely a bearded old man who lives off in a somewhat pious and stuffy golden heaven and delights in having all dead people gather around him and praise Him to harp music. You learn from Soulcraft that the soul gradually learns to operate and think and express itself without any sort of physical vehicle or body whatsoever, difficult as that is to conceive of now. *Consciousness—one of the greatest mysteries in the universe, in fact the greatest mystery—is a "unit" in*

Soul is Not perishable - could not burn in Hell.

invisible ether that enters in and out of various vehicles or instruments merely to get expression peculiar to the plane or conditions on which it seeks to operate.

Millions of unlearned people think that it is life that animates the physical body, and that when the physical body dies, life dies also. But life does nothing of the sort. The ability to think consciously continues right long. This ability to think consciously went on before each person's body came into existence—the body itself had nothing to do with it. We call this ability to think consciously independent of any physical body, the Soul. The Soul entered into the new physical or baby's body and thus caused the body to look, act, and seem alive. No fires of Hell could truly burn and consume this Soul because it isn't made of perishable materials that fire could destroy. For a given number of years the Soul lives in the body and operates it from inside. It "pulls out" of the physical body at death and enters into bodies that are transparent to earthly eyesight. It continues to advance on and on, and up and up, till it learns five or six planes higher than earth that Thought alone can perform what muscles and other bodily features had performed on the lower planes. Very good then, what truly is happening is, that such Soul is really approaching the God-State itself.

YOU HEAR it said that God is Spirit —Holy Spirit. And that's entirely logical and true. All it really means is, that Holy Spirit's Thought is so expert and powerful that it no longer needs bodies by

¶ **CREDULITY** is the man's weakness but the child's strength. Credulity always thinks others shortsighted . .

which to get results. It can be everywhere and know everything that's going on simply from the extent and expanse of its own universal awareness. And this same Holy Spirit, at the very top and apex of all such performance of Consciousness is more expert at it than any other unit of consciousness that ever evolved so far. Therefore as Jesus said, "No man hath seen God at any time" because Pure Spirit isn't a thing, bodily or otherwise. It's a mental condition operating in invisible ether.

God doesn't need to present Himself to anyone as a bearded old man, because He's long since passed beyond all need for occupying an old man's body. He's the Unit of Consciousness for All Good in the universe, all wise because actually He's the sum-total of wisdom in itself.

When you know all these things, as Soulcraft will make them clearer and clearer to you as you grow older and wiser, all your soul-worries drop away from you, and the preachers who get up and shout about hell-fire being your fate if you don't go to church every Sunday or do unto your neighbor as you would be done by, will ap-

pear as good enough men in their way to you, but without meaning any disrespect to them, they truly show themselves as not knowing what they're talking about. You will have peace of mind, and not engage in any crabby religious quarrels because you will know the facts. And as you go on and on, getting reports on higher life conditions as people confront them who have gone into them, you will find your own views confirmed by them.

SO BRIGHT HORIZONS tells you that these crabby and quarrelsome older people should be looked upon with a certain sympathy because they are the victims of the conflict that has gone on inside themselves up through their earthly lives, seeing they've been confused as to what the truth is, or how to express it as they feel it intuitively.

The way to arrive at a calm, benign, poised, peaceful old age is to read and absorb every detail of Soulcraft that you can soak up—particularly the evidential proof that things get better and better as you pass through one plane after another, until you arrive at an all-powerful God-condi-

tion yourself in your own right. More and more you'll find that Soulcraft's claims and explanations are confirmed by the findings of Science, and certainly confirmed by the testimony of those who have taken their souls out of their bodies to live in realms of advanced understanding of these matters.

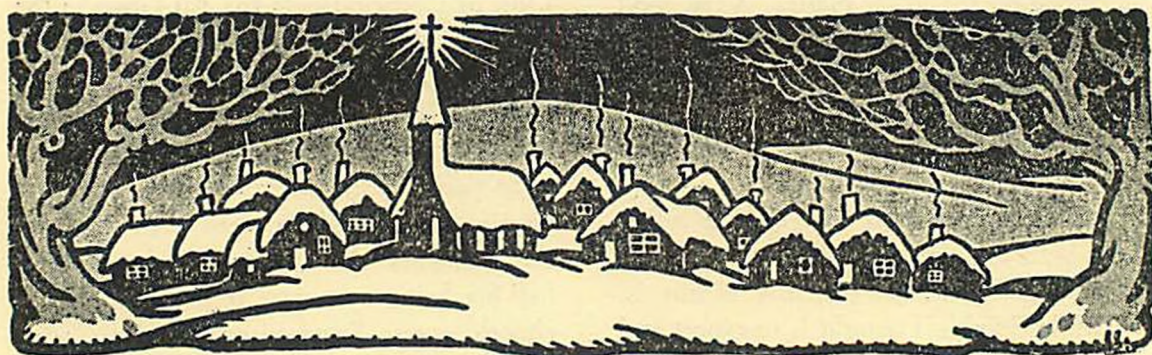
After all, the one thing all of us are after when pursuing any knowledge in any field, is the *truth*.

Christ said quite appropriately, "Ye shall know the Truth and it shall make you free."

Exactly, *free!* Free from heartrending worries and concerns over your fate as you get nearer and nearer the time of your own death. And knowing as well by the kind of life you've lived that you qualify yourself for the nature of the heavenly world for which you're best fitted, you live up to your highest ideals and leave the rest to an all-wise God who has the concern for your welfare that any earthly parent would have.

This is Soulcraft as Youth should view it.

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